

VZCZCXR08068
PP RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM RUEHNH RUEHTRO
DE RUEHGO #0233 1140628
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 240628Z APR 09
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8886
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1910
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 5388
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8981
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6557
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4386
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2375
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 000233

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP AND IO; PACOM FOR FPA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/23/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: BURMA: REGIME CHARGES NLD MEMBERS WITH RELIGIOUS DEFAMATION

REF: RANGOON 230

Classified By: Poloff Sean ONeill for Reasons 1.4 (b) & (d)

¶1. (C) NLD spokesman Nyan Win informed us that two Rangoon-based NLD officials arrested on April 22 have been charged with defaming the Buddhist religion. Authorities charged U Chit Phay and U Maung Soe Wai under section 295 A of the penal code at a Twunyat township court the afternoon of their arrest. If convicted, the two men could face as much as two years' imprisonment. According to the NLD's sources, the two detainees were remanded to police custody after being charged.

¶2. (SBU) Police arrested U Chit Phay and U Maung Soe Wai on April 22 after they led a Buddhist prayer meeting at a local pagoda to call for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners (reftel).

DINGER